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FOR EEB/TPP/MTAA/ABT JANET SPECK, GARY CLEMENTS AND DON
MORTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON GLOBAL ACTION FOR FOOD SECURITY

REF: State 58996

¶1. Poloff met on June 18 with the Vatican's point person on food security, Dr. Paolo Conversi, to deliver the points listed in reftel. Conversi appreciated U.S. financial support for agricultural development, noting that U.S. views are consistent with the Pope's October 2008 World Food Day statement emphasizing the need to invest in agriculture as a top priority.

¶2. Comment: The Vatican can leverage its moral authority on issues relating to food security in ways that contribute to U.S. foreign policy objectives. While it does not participate in the G 8, the Holy See maintains diplomatic relations with 178 countries, and is an observer at the UN and other international organizations. End comment.

FOLEY